

**Southern Illinois University  
School of Law**

**Rules Relating to Senior Writing Requirement**

[Excerpted from School of Law Rules  
for AY 2009–10]

**ARTICLE IV - SPECIAL RULES REGARDING CURRICULUM**

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5. Senior Writing Requirement

- (a) Purpose. The purpose of the Senior Writing Requirement is to further refine students' skills in legal research, legal writing, and legal analysis in a course that requires substantial legal research and an advanced legal writing project involving significant, sophisticated legal analysis and legal research.
- (b) Satisfaction. The senior writing requirement may be satisfied in any one of the following ways:
  - i. Senior Writing Seminar. Satisfactory completion of a designated Senior Writing Seminar which requires the production of a paper of the quality of a law journal comment.
  - ii. Designated elective course. Satisfactory completion of an elective course of 3 or 4 credit hours offered at the School of Law designated, as provided in (c) below, as meeting the Senior Writing Requirement.
  - iii. Law Journal credit. Satisfactory completion of at least four hours of Law Journal credit as specified in Rule IV.2(d)(2).
  - iv. Advanced Moot Court (Appellate Division). Satisfactory completion of at least five hours of Advanced Moot Court credit for participation in the Appellate Division. Satisfactory completion will be contingent on certification by the Faculty Advisor to the Appellate Division that the student has met the research and writing standard set forth under Rule IV.5(a). [amended 5/2005; 12/5/07]
- (c) Course designation. Upon the written request of a faculty member, the Associate Dean may designate an elective course (3 or 4 credit hours) as meeting the Senior Writing Requirement. Such a designation requires a determination by the Associate Dean that the course involves significant writing assignment(s) and

develops advanced skills of legal research, writing, and analysis. Examples of courses that may be so designated include advanced appellate advocacy, statutory or regulatory drafting, and transactional drafting.

(d) Miscellaneous

- i. All Senior Writing Seminars and elective courses designated under this rule as meeting the Senior Writing Requirement shall meet on a regular basis to focus on either the substantive law or the specific skills to be taught or both, with the opportunity to forgo up to four weeks of class meetings for intensive research, writing, and individual conferences on writing projects. Writing shall be a focal point of what is taught. The writing experience shall be substantial in nature and shall be essentially the independent work of one student.
- ii. The maximum enrollment in a Senior Writing Seminar or in an elective course designated as meeting the Senior Writing Requirement shall be set by the faculty member in consultation with the Associate Dean, taking into account the nature of the substantive material and skills taught, as well as overall staffing needs. In no event shall the maximum enrollment be set at less than 12. In instances where enrollment is limited, priority will be given to senior law students. In all instances where enrollment exceeds 12, the provisions of Rule III.1(b) shall apply. Except in extraordinary circumstances recognized by the administration, no seminar will proceed if fewer than six students enroll in the seminar. [amended 5/2004]
- iii. Any student who has completed at least 31 semester hours may register for a senior seminar, provided that (a) no person may take more than one seminar each semester; (b) no person may take more than three seminars during law school; and (c) enrollment priority in all seminars shall be as follows (1) third-year students who have not fulfilled the Senior Writing Requirement; (2) second-year students who have not fulfilled the Senior Writing Requirement; (3) persons taking a second seminar; and (4) persons taking a third seminar. [amended 1/2006]
- iv. A student may, with the permission of the faculty member, take a Senior Writing Seminar or elective course designated as meeting the Senior Writing Requirement for academic credit alone and not for purposes of satisfying the Senior Writing Requirement, but only if that would not entail denying another student enrollment in the course if such other student is enrolling in the course for the purpose of satisfying the Senior Writing Requirement.